

## REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32-36, and 38-40 are in the application.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, and 38 are currently amended; claims 10, 24, 25, 28, 31, and 37 are canceled; and claims 2-8, 11-21, 23, 33-36, 39, and 40 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 9, 22, 27, 30, 32, and 38 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

### Claim Rejections – USC § 101

Claims 1-36 were rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action stated that these claims neither result in any physical transformation or recite a practical application within the technological arts, and were considered to merely manipulate abstract ideas. The Office Action further stated that the content of these claims in and of themselves does not constitute a statutory process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter.

In reply to the Office Action's characterization of claims 1-36 as not reciting "a practical application within the technological arts", independent claims 1, 22, 27, 30, 32, and 38 are currently amended to clearly and concisely recite a practical application within the technological art. Namely, claims 1, 22, 27, 30, 32, and 38 relate to identifying whether the first and second records are duplicates based on the determined third value. Independent claim 9 also relates to identifying at least two of the plurality records as duplicates based on a determined value representing a difference between the two records. Thus, it is clear that each of the independent claims in the application include recitations of "a practical application within the technological arts". It is further submitted that each of the dependent claims in the application also include recitations of

a practical application within the technological arts for at least the reasons provided regarding the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-36 under 35 USC 101.

**Claim Rejections – USC § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-33, and 36-39 are rejected as being unpatentable over Pattison et al U.S. Patent No. 5,999,936 (“Pattison”), in view of Gruenwald, U.S. Patent No. 6,457,006 (“Gruenwald”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant’s arguments of record are incorporated herein.

Further regarding claim 1, the Office Action states that Pattison substantially discloses Applicant’s claim 1. Namely, the Office Action states that Pattison discloses the claimed determining a first value, determining a second value, and (as emphasized in the Response to Arguments of the Office Action) determining a third value. The Office Action cites and relies upon Gruenwald for disclosing identifying duplicate data between fields of the records in databases. The Office Action admits that Pattison does not disclose that the records therein comprise a plurality of data fields.

Referring to the claims (e.g., claim 1), it is clear that Applicant claims a method for determining a value representing a difference between a first record comprising a first plurality of data fields and a second record comprising a second plurality of data fields that includes determining for each of the first plurality of data fields, a first value representing a difference between data specified in the data field and data specified in a respective one of the second plurality of data fields; determining for each of the second plurality of data fields a second value representing a difference between data specified in the data field and data specified in a respective one of the first plurality of data fields, and determining a third value representing a difference between the first record and the second record based on the determined first and second values.

However, in contrast to Applicant's claimed three determined values (i.e., the first value, the second value, and the third value), the cited and relied upon Pattison appears to disclose only one determined value. Pattison discloses a method for compressing a data record wherein the data record is divided into data partitions of equal length, referred to as Small Object Binary (SOBs). (See Pattison, col 5, ln. 66 – col. 6, ln. 3) Pattison assigns one, single value to each SOB in the disclosed compression method(s) thereof. A decision to compress a SOB is made based on the one value assigned to each SOB. (See FIG. 2(a), step 208) Pattison discloses compressing the SOB only if the two-bit SOB value is a category 4 (i.e., the two bits equal 11). FIG. 3 clearly illustrates the four possible categories for a SOB (See reference number 306)

Pattison discloses a process for determining the one, single value for each SOB in FIG. 2(c), steps 238-248. Only in step 234 is there a comparison between SOB values of any two records. In step 234, the SOB value of a current record (e.g., record 1 or REC<sub>N</sub>) is compared to a second (previous) record (e.g., record 2 or REC<sub>(N-1)</sub>) once, to determine the single, sole value to assign to the current record (e.g., record 1 or REC<sub>N</sub>) at step 236. That is, Pattison only discloses determining one value (e.g., a SOB value).

The rejection also cites and relies on the disclosure of FIG. 5 wherein Pattison discloses a diagram showing the compression process of FIGS. 2(a) and 2(c) as applied to two input records (i.e., RECORD1A and RECORD2B) to create two corresponding output compression records (See FIG. 5, 504). Again, for each record, Pattison discloses calculating one SOB (Small Object Binary) value.

In contradistinction to Applicant's claims, Pattison does not disclose determining a first value based on a determining a first value representing a difference between data specified in the data field and data specified in a respective one of the second plurality

of data fields, determining a second value representing a difference between data specified in the data field and data specified in a respective one of the first plurality of data field, and determining a third value representing a difference between the first record and the second record based on the determined first and second values.

It is not seen how the Office Action can logically cite and rely on a single value, the disclosed SOB value, to disclose Applicant's claimed (1) determined first value (See paragraph 3 of the Office Action), (2) determined second value (See paragraph 3 of the Office Action), and (3) determined third value (See paragraph 4 of the Office Action). Pattison clearly only discloses one value for each SOB therein.

Regarding claim 1, the Office cites and relies upon Gruenweld solely for disclosing identifying duplicate data in fields of database records. Applicant notes however that the methods disclosed in Gruenweld are not the same as or suggestive of Applicant's claimed methods for determining a value representing a difference between a first record comprising a first plurality of data fields and a second record comprising a second plurality of data fields, each of the first plurality of data fields corresponding to a respective one of the second plurality of data fields.

Thus, combining the disclosure of Pattison with Gruenweld (as alleged, not admitted as proper or feasible by Applicant) would not render Applicant's claim 1 obvious. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited and relied upon Pattison and Gruenweld combination fails to render claim 1 obvious for at least the reasons stated above. Accordingly, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 2, 4, and 6-8 depend from claim 1. Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, and 6-8 are patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 1.

Regarding claim 9, claim 9 is currently amended to incorporate aspects of the previous (now canceled) claim 10. Claim 9 relates to subject matter similar to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least reasons similar to those provided herein for claim 1.

Claims 11-21 depend from claim 9. Applicant submits that claims 11-21 are patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 9.

Regarding currently amended claim 22, Applicant submits that claim 22 is patentable over the cited and relied upon Pattison and Gruenweld references for, at least, reasons similar to those stated above regarding claim 1. Claims 23 and 26 depend from claim 22. Applicant submits that claims 23, 25, and 26 are patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 22.

Regarding currently amended claim 27, Applicant submits that claim 27 is patentable over the cited and relied upon Pattison and Gruenweld references for, at least, reasons similar to those stated above regarding claim 1. Claim 29 depends from claim 27. Applicant submits that claims 29 is patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 27.

Regarding currently amended claim 30, Applicant submits that claim 30 is patentable over the cited and relied upon Pattison and Gruenweld references for at least reasons similar to those stated above regarding claim 1.

Regarding claims 32 and 38, Applicant submits that claims 32 and 38 are patentable over the cited and relied upon Pattison and Gruenweld references for at least reasons similar to those stated above regarding claim 1. Claims 33-36 and 39, depend from claims 32 and 38, respectively. Applicant submits that claims 33-36 and

39 are patentable over the cited and relied upon references for at least the reasons stated above regarding claim 32 and 38.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

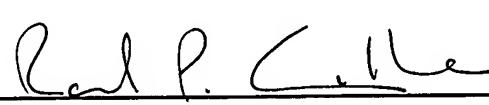
Applicant wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action stated that claims 3, 5, 6, 34, 35, and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of Applicant's foregoing arguments and reasons supporting patentability of all of the pending claims, Applicant does not amend claims 3, 5, 6, 34, 35, and 40 at this time but reserves the right for the future.

## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

May 24, 2005  
Date

  
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